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AUTHOR Peters, Dorothy
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ABSTRACT

This book focuses on how to address the individual learning needs of a classroom full of active, multiethnic elementary students all at the same time. It contains a compilation of yearlong journal exchanges between an experienced teacher and her 12 student teachers, presenting the specifics of classroom life on a day-to-day basis. The student teachers raise questions that all teachers face, with their discussions covering the spectrum of issues, from punishment versus consequences and dealing with difficult children to planning and implementing integrated curriculum, fostering inquiry, assessing and tracking students' growth, and managing hands-on experiential learning. Each chapter contains three components: quotes from student teachers (taken from journal queries, observations, and comments); a bulleted list of the primary topics addressed; and responses that the experienced teacher wrote to the student teachers. The book also provides practical support via sample room layouts, suggestions for classroom provisioning, a sample record keeping form, a planning web for integrated curriculum, a sample lesson plan, information on getting started, suggested readings, and photographs illustrating how hands-on learning progresses across the grades. (SM)

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